

Red Spy Ring Cracked in Italy

300 NATO Officers Reported Involved

TURIN, Italy (UPI)—An Italian parachutist arrested on espionage charges today gave a magistrate's court the names of 300 NATO officers allegedly involved in the biggest Russian spy ring in the west, counter intelligence sources said.

Some of the officers involved were said to be Americans.

In many cases parachutist Giorgio Rinaldi was able to give investigators only "cover" aliases of the officers, the sources said.

At least two Russian Embassy officials were believed implicated in the plot and informed sources said they would be expelled by the Italian government.

One Already on Way

One Soviet Embassy employee flew to Moscow today, apparently expelled in connection with the Mediterranean-wide spy ring.

Fiumicino airport sources identified the man as Juri Pavlenko, 35, an attache at the Soviet Embassy here. He was accompanied by his wife, Natalia, and their 6-year-old son. The trio were the last to board the Czechoslovakian Airlines plane.

Before boarding they shook hands with several Russian Embassy employees who had accompanied them to the airport.

Government sources refused to comment on the expulsions.

The sources said the Russians acted as receivers for the parachutist and an antique dealer, Giorgio Rinaldi, 39, his wife Angela, 52, and their chauffeur Armando Girard, 40, all of whom have confessed to spying

on Allied bases in Italy, Spain and elsewhere, police said.

More persons connected with the alleged ring were arrested in Morocco, Somalia, Cyprus and Greece, the sources said. Intelligence sources called it one of the greatest espionage networks uncovered recently by Western agents.

They said Rinaldi hid miniature cameras and other spy gear when he entered U.S. and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization bases in his capacity as

parachute ace and instructor. They said Rinaldi and his wife used coded radio messages, invisible ink and microfilm hidden in drops at such spots as the Turin Zoo and imperial tombs.

The intelligence sources said Rinaldi has been watched since he was seen with a Soviet lieutenant colonel in 1956. Suspensions grew as Rinaldi, formerly badly in debt, suddenly grew prosperous.

Police arrested Girard on his return from Spain March 15.

The sources said police found in his possession microfilm of allied military bases in Spain. More such film was found in the Rinaldi home and antique shop, they said.